



State of California  
The Natural Resources Agency  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**PROJECT TITLE** Sequoia Crest Fuel Reduction Project

**PROJECT LOCATION** Sequoia Crest, Portions of Section 16, T20S, R31E MDBM **COUNTY** Tulare

**LEAD AGENCY** California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

**CONTACT** David Shy, Unit Forester

**ADDRESS** Tulare Unit Headquarters  
1968 S. Lovers Ln, Visalia, CA 93292 **PHONE** 559-636-4146

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project is to limit the threat of catastrophic fire to the Sequoia Crest community by reducing vegetative fuel loads along the perimeter of the development. This project is identified as priority project in the Tulare County CWPP. Surface vegetation and ladder fuels will be selectively removed throughout the 230 ac. project area. Woody shrubs and trees less than 10" DHB will be removed by a combination of manual and mechanical methods. Up to 70 percent of the surface vegetation will be removed. Manual methods will involve hand crews using chain saws and pruning saws while mechanical use will involve a tracked masticator and portable chipper. The masticator will be utilized where slopes gradients allow while the chipper will operate from the existing roads only. Approximately 40% of the area will be treated mechanically and the remaining 60% treated with hand crews. Slash created from the project activities will therefore be disposed by a combination of chipping, mastication and pile burning.

### EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ **Categorical Exemption** Type/Section: Class 4  
14CCR§15304 – Minor Alterations  
to Lands
- ☐ **Statutory Exemption** (state code section):
- ☐ **Ministerial** (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ **Declared Emergency** (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ **Emergency Project** (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

### REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project involves only minor alterations to the existing conditions of the land and vegetation designed to establish a more natural vegetative condition with a reduced fire risk. Brian Rueger, CA Registered Professional Forester #2162 has completed the environmental review including the Archaeology review.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review is on file at the CAL FIRE Tulare Unit Headquarters in Visalia. No significant environmental impact is anticipated from this project.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING**

RECEIVED

SEP 19 2013

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

*William E. Snyder* September 19, 2013  
William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection